

News ReleaseNational Labor Relations Board Office of the General Counsel

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California healthcare election results: UHW/SEIU prevails

Largest mail ballot count in NLRB history was conducted in two days

A statewide group of Kaiser Permanente healthcare employees voted in favor of keeping their long-time union rather than switching to a rival union that had petitioned to represent them, according to results announced late Thursday by National Labor Relations Board Regional Director Alan Reichard.

A total of 30,295 mailed ballots, from among 43,000 eligible voters, were received by the regional office in Oakland during the three-week period of balloting. They were sorted, verified, and counted over a two-day period by Agency personnel from Oakland and surrounding regions. It was the largest mail ballot election in the agency's history.

The results were: United Healthcare Workers (UHW), a part of SEIU, 18,290 votes; National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW), 11,364 votes; no union, 365 votes; with 1,222 void ballots and 276 challenged ballots. The parties have seven days to file objections to the election.

Regional Director Reichard congratulated his team for their thorough planning in anticipation of this unprecedented event, and for efficiently processing the large number of ballots while ensuring security and voter confidentiality. Ballots were returned to the Oakland office inside two envelopes: an outer yellow envelope containing voter information that was verified by observers from the parties and agency staff, and an inner blue envelope that held the ballot. The ballots were counted by machine and by hand.

The National Labor Relations Board is an independent federal agency vested with the authority to safeguard employees' rights to organize and to determine whether to have a union as their collective bargaining representative. The Agency also acts to prevent and remedy unfair labor practices committed by private sector employers and unions, as well as cases arising from the United States Postal Service.

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